



The Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard

WHAT IS IT?

The Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS) is part of the Best Seafood Practices (BSP) third-party certification program and enables fishing operations to provide assurances of decent working conditions and operational best practices from catch to shore. The BSP program also includes the Seafood Processing Standard, which is the only seafood-specific processing plant standard and ensures seafood has been processed in an ethical manner. BSP is the only program capable of linking **certified** vessels and processing plants to certified fisheries.

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Individual vessels or fleets can apply for certification. For fleet certification, all vessels require an internal audit and a subset of vessels will be audited by an independent third party. The number of vessels audited will be determined upon receiving the application.

The appropriate sample number of vessels shall be determined by calculating the square root number of vessels within the group rounded up to the next whole number.

Any type of commercial fishing vessel is able to be certified to RFVS. For auditing purposes, vessels are classified into the following categories:

- Single Hander – Uncrewed vessel operating trips less than 24 hours
- Day Tripper – Crewed vessel operating trips less than 24 hours
- Crewed vessel operating trips 24 hours to less than 72 hours
- Crewed vessel operating trips 72 hours to less than 30 days
- Crewed vessel operating trips greater than 30 days

THE CERTIFICATION COST

The cost of certification is set by the certification body. To date the cost of certification for individual vessels ranges from \$1200-\$2000 per day. It should be noted that this is an estimate based on cost of certifications performed to date. It is expected that the costs would be lower per vessel for larger fleets

Audit length is estimated at one day for larger boats and a half day for single handers.

The cost of an RFVS audit based on the audit fee, and travel and subsistence costs for the auditor. There are currently no program or logo fees associated with RFVS certification. The BSP logo is able to be used by RFVS-certified vessels only for off pack purposes.